/66 cont./

142. Upon dealing with this subject, we have accidently had come to mind the story of that first fratricide, who was not satisfied with the promise of God that he would not die a perfidious death and thus lived an errant and fugitive life on earth, persecuted by the voice of blood.

And although we said at the beginning that the Indians are thoroughly imbued with the concept of Kanaima, it is hoped that little by little they will be abandoning it, since if they were at one time perfidious and bloody in their vengeance, now we have redeemed them from their barbarism, they have the right to enjoy that peace promised to men of good will.

143. To convince the Indians, and those who may read this, of the ideas here expounded, we are going to relate a few facts that we know with certainty.

797 123 776 781 a) On a certain occasion a missionary, who was inspecting their agriculture, thinking exactly about this matter of the Kanaima, tried to imitate the whistle that the Indians attribute to him, with such success and with such bad luck that an Indian who happened to have gone to get water, dropping the camaza, took off running like a buck, and crying in a loud voice got into the hammock shaking with fever.

123 776 781 b) Some travelers, camped near the Kamá waterfall and who were accompanied by Indians, out of idleness got the idea of shouting "Kanaima, Kanaima," and then, however hard they tried to persuade the Indians that it had been a joke, it was not possible to do so, since the Indians swore that they had seen him and they spent the rest of the night in painful vigil. /67/

159 776 578 c) A few years ago there in Akurimá lived two Indians, called Joaquín and Alberto; the first, who had a very bad previous history, since with other companions he had killed three civilized persons while they were sleeping, wanted to wreak vengeance on the second, with whom he had had a strong altercation. For this purpose he put on the clothing in which his mother had given birth to him, painted himself up well with annatto and other cosmetics, and in this strange form presented

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159 himself in the field. But this time playing Kanaima did not
776 serve him any purpose, since his companion recognized him
578 and, far from being frightened, fell upon him with blows of a stick, so that, going for wool, he came back fleeced and, with his back redder than annatto, ran off to hid his sad fate.

538 144. The Indians themselves, for whom it is easier to let
776 the imagination run to create a tale than to tie together the ends of various facts and ideas to form a well-reasoned out argument, have in their folklore this extremely significant story:

In a certain place there lived two Indians, each one married to the other's sister. During the night they heard Kanaima's whistle, who, or so it seemed, was going around the house with the intention of catching someone. One of the women with the greatest secrecy got down from the hammock and began tc spin cotton. The Kanaima whistled again: Soé, soé. The Indian woman opened the door as though to throw out the seeds, and she saw the Kanaima hiding behind a tree. Then speaking in a loud voice in order to cover her intention, she said to her husband: Here is a rat which is eating up my cotton seeds, come shoot it with an arrow. Her husband leaped out of the hammock, picked up his bow, and approached his wife; she said in his ear: The Kanaima is there behind that pole, shoot it. The Kanaima was watching, fooled, to see what would come of that scene, when all of a sudden he received a blow with an arrow on his forehead. Protected by the darkness of the night, he went running to his rancho; to hide what had happened he told his mother that he was shooting at a toucan and that the arrow had come back and wounded him on the forehead.

When day came the Indian woman went to her mother's house and found her brother sick; her mother explained to her that in trying to shoot a toucan he had wounded himself. She returned to her house and told this to her husband. He suspected